Formation of Crisis Management Group on Cyclone

2101. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formed a crisis management group in view of recent devastation caused by the cyclone to the Paradip sea-port and a similar catastrophe happending in Kandla sea-port last year killing about 400 people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the crisis management plan contains both preventive and remedial measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRASNPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Crisis Management Group headed by Additional Secretary of this Ministry was set up in 1987. The said Group has been reconstituted in July, 1999 headed by the Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser of this Ministry and consists of the representatives from the various Ministries/Departments such as Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers besides the representatives of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Major Ports have drawn up a Contingency Plan and Disaster Management Plan to meet the contingencies of natural calamities like cyclone, storms and other emergencies such as handling of hazardous cargo, strikes, civil disturbances etc. The Plan contains both the preventive and remedial measures to be taken depending on intensity of storm/cyclone and the danger it posses with reference to crafts and equipments, navigation, communication and warning, safety of people, emergency services, food and water etc. All Major Ports are equipped with VHF trans-receivers. Ports also use E-Mail, Fax, Telex and Cellulor phones for their communications. Instructions have already been issued to all Major Ports Trusts to install INMARSAT SYSTEM and Mobile Satelite Phone.